CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
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Yasmin Cortez | Daily 49er

The 13th annual Haute Dog's Bulldog Beauty Contest invited dogs of all breeds to strut their stuff down the doggie red carpet. The dogs not only won awards, but they also won the spectators' hearts.

HAUTE DOG

Animal lovers from all across Southern California met at Marine Stadium Park for the 13th annual Haute Dog's Bulldog Beauty Contest on Sunday. Everyone from terriers and retrievers to Dachshunds and Great Danes were present. To read more, **see page 4**.

FINANCES

Budget deficit leads to fee increase

Revenue will go toward mental health services, building upgrades and a dietician.

By Lola Olvera
Staff Writer

After running at a budget deficit of 3 percent in 2016, Cal State Long Beach's Student Health Services has raised its fee from $45 to $75 per semester and will be implementing the change this fall. The fee has not increased in 12 years, despite the rising costs of healthcare.

The Health Facility fee will also be raised from $3 to $5 per semester in an effort to keep up with costs of maintaining the Health Center and its essential services while adding more mental health services. After this year, Health Services fees will also be adjusted every three years to keep up with inflation.

Director of SHS, Mary Ann Takemoto, said officialsthey were supplementing the deficit using temporary government grants.

The Health Services Fee Increase Proposal webpage says students should "compare [the fee increase] to [their]

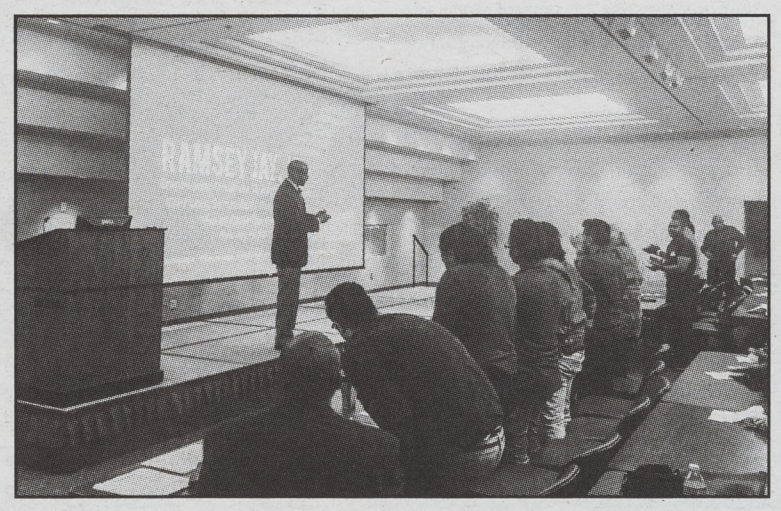
see **HEALTH**, page 3

DIVERSITY

Conference helps men of color confront challenges

Keynote speaker Ramsey Jay Jr. inspires students to achieve at Walter Pyramid.

By Adam R. Thomas
Staff Writer



Adam R. Thomas | Daily 49er

Speaker Ramsey Jay Jr. receives a standing ovation at the end of his speech during the second Men of Color Conference on Saturday.

The day starts early in the morning. After introductory remarks from Rex Richardson, the vice mayor of Long Beach, Ramsey Jay Jr. comes up to the lectern.

He's in his thirties, with a shaved head, thin athletic build and sharply dressed in a suit and tie. He takes command of the room as he delivers his hour-long keynote, "Empowering Dreamers to Become Achievers."

"Preparation in the 21st century, particularly for men and women of color, we've got to be prepared for opportunities before we even may know they're around the corner," Jay says at the start of his address. "Because they're not going to come twice, most likely. We've got to be prepared for what's around the corner even though we may not know what it is."

This lesson of preparation is a major part of Jay's motivational speaking. It's why he was invited by Cal State University Long Beach's Men's Success Initiative to be the keynote speaker at their second Men of Color Conference held Feb. 10 at The Pointe conference center in the Walter Pyramid.

According to Dunbar, the MSI was

see **COLOR**, page 2

IMMIGRATION

Clinic offers free immigration answers

Community members connect with legal counsel at The Pointe.

By Carlos Villicana
Staff Writer

Concerns and questions about immigration brought people to The Pointe on Saturday, where they met with attorneys at a free legal clinic.

The Long Beach Immigrant Rights Coalition and Cal State Long Beach's Future Underrepresented Educated Leaders hosted the clinic, welcoming upward of 50 attendees into the venue where they could have any questions relating to immigration answered by volunteer attorneys.

The clinic had been planned for four weeks, but recent events, such as Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids across California that saw over 150 people arrested and President Donald Trump's executive order calling for the construction of a wall along the Mexico-United States border, have led to many concerns about security from deportation.

"It's a large range of immigration questions," said LBIRC Development Assistant Maribel Cruz.

Petitioning for a family member's citizenship, obtaining Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, and what to do when faced with a deportation order are among the concerns that Cruz said people, both citizens and not, have reached out to the LBIRC for help with.

Upon arrival to the Pointe, attendees filled out forms with

see **CLINIC**, page 2

PANEL

Undocumented students share their stories

"A day in the life" encouraged understanding for the community's experience.

By Ammi Ruiz
Staff Writer

Connie Ojeda | Daily 49er
ASI Secretary Kenia Duarte, fifth from left, joins round table discussions regarding immigration at Wednesday's "A Day in the Life of an Undocumented Student."

"Every breath I breathe, chasin' the American Dream," Rihanna sang in a video projected on a screen behind the stage, where keynote speaker Blanca Villagomez stood and shared her own immigration story to a full audience. Villagomez wore a black t-shirt with the words "I Am Undocumented" printed in white text.

"The crackdown of illegal criminals is merely the keeping of my campaign promise. Gang members, drug dealers & others are being removed," President Donald Trump said in a Twitter statement early Sunday morning.

Trump's "promise" has caused anxiety among the undocumented student community who fear they will not be able to work or further their education in the United States.

When Villagomez found out about the presidential election results, it was past midnight. She was staring at her computer screen from her bed. "I almost threw up," said the University of California Los Angeles alumni at Wednesday's campus event "A Day in the Life of an Undocumented Student."

The event, which was spearheaded by Associated Students, Inc., took place at 4 p.m. in the University Student Union ballrooms where some students shared testimonials about being undocumented.

"The motive is just to educate people and bring out the stories of these students who are struggling and want somebody to hear their voices," said ASI cabinet member and public policy graduate student Kenia Duarte.

Other campus organizations involved in hosting the event were the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the Dream Success Center and Future Underrepresented Educated Leaders.

Paintings displayed at the event showed a man and a woman of color dressed in graduation regalia.

Villagomez first openly shared her undocumented status during her freshman year at UCLA, where she spoke to a crowd of about a thousand people, most of whom were strangers. She was then given the opportunity to speak in front of donors who provided $25,000 in funding toward a career program and housing initiative designed specifically for undocumented students.

Villagomez was born in Mexico but has lived in the US since she was two years old. During her testimony, she highlighted some of the struggles undocumented students face.

"We have to navigate institutions and systems while being highly aware of our limitations … and that constant survival mode affects us mentally, emotionally, spiritually and physically," she said.

Students participated in a roundtable discussion where they talked about dismantling some of the social stigmas associated with being an undocumented immigrant, such as being labeled a "criminal," as one student said during the open mic segment.

Not all students who attended the event were undocumented. Senior religious studies major Matthew Argame said he felt it was his "responsibility to know what the needs are for [the undocumented] community."

"Right now, it's just as vital for those people who don't share the experience of being undocumented to learn more and to speak out," he said.

Villagomez ended the discussion by encouraging students to share their stories with others and to remain hopeful. "Being undocumented doesn't define you. We have so much potential, so much talent, so much skill. And if we're really here to stay, then we have to do it together," she said.

CLINIC

continued from page 1

information about their reason for seeking consultation before being paired with one of the 11 attorneys present.

Cruz stated that gaining 11 attorneys was remarkable for an event hosted in Long Beach, as they have only had about eight attorneys present in the past, and similar events in larger areas like Los Angeles are likely to recruit about 20 attorneys.

"Given the time, they're really eager to help," Cruz said. "Their willingness to come on and support has been amazing."

When called from the waiting room, people were seated in front of an attorney at a table, where they would confidentially discuss their concerns and get the help they needed.

FUEL President and junior political science CSULB student Luis Flores said that someone who arrived to video record the event had to be turned away, because the organizers did not want to risk identifying anyone who may be undocumented.

In the waiting room, families were given a presentation about constitutional rights that both citizens and noncitizens have, specifically in the event that an ICE officer were to arrive to their home in search of anyone.

The waiting room presentation from FUEL instructed people to tell ICE agents at their door that they do not wish to speak with them, hand them any documents or sign anything, as per their 5th Amendment rights. Attendees were told to declare to ICE agents that they are not permitted to enter their home or search their belongings, unless the agent had a warrant signed by a judge or magistrate that they should slide under the door.

"This information is crucial, specifically in this political climate," Flores said.

Flores credited support they received from the Division of Student Affairs and the Dream Success Center with helping FUEL reserve the venue.

"It's a community effort," Flores said.

Though most of the people that attended the clinic were Latinx, Cruz hopes to expand the service to be able to help immigrants of all nationalities.

Flores stated that he hopes to host another free immigration legal clinic in mid-March.

COLOR

continued from page 1

launched along with the Highly Valued Degree Initiative in 2010. After CSULB administration ran the numbers, officials found that not only were African-American and Latino males the smallest populations of students on campus, they were the least likely to graduate. Events like the MOCC and speakers like Jay are intended to help reinforce lessons of perseverance for men of color, with the ultimate goal of raising graduation rates for this demographic.

"I wanted to be encouraging with this conference," says Anthony Dunbar, the staff coordinator from CSULB's Student Life and Development department, who organized the day's events. "My goal is to inform them of ways that emotions and uncertainties can still positively lead you."

Jay's keynote is full of anecdotes and personal history about his life. About growing up in Ventura, California learning discipline through track and field, to earning his degree of Business Administration at CSU Fresno and a master's from Dartmouth. How he eventually pushed himself from Wall Street financing as far as the White House, where he delivered the opening remarks at an event celebrating the life of Ray Charles in 2016 as the lead-in to former President Barack Obama.

After the keynote address, Jay and Dunbar lead the group on a series of breakout sessions. They relay stories about their own lives to each other, stories of how they've had to confront feelings of discomfort, overcome challenges and best strive for success.

After one young man's story about being mocked by peers for trying to improve his own life ends, Jay gets up to speak.

> My goal is to inform them of ways that emotions and uncertainties can still positively lead you.
>
> *-Anthony Dunbar, CSULB Student Life and Development department staff coordinator*

"A lot of times in college I got laughed at for being the nerd on the bus that was reading Forbes magazine," says Ramsey Jay, Jr., the leader of the day's events. The group of young men at the table laugh at this opening to an anecdote.

"But no one's laughing now," says Jay. "I'm not saying that to brag. I'm saying that that behavior has ultimately created who I am now. Those guys are now close followers. If I had stayed where I was I wouldn't be able to be who I am and now I'm able to help a lot of those guys."

Throughout the day Jay elaborates on his philosophy of the "3 P's" of working to make things "possible, probable and predictable." He brings up 12 pieces of advice for success such as "Get comfortable being uncomfortable" and leads the gathered students and faculty through an exercise to find their "quintessential motivator," a person in their life that gives them a reason to go on. It's an exercise that leaves a few men in tears.

"I thought it was great," says Bert Rivera, regional recruitment director for the nonprofit City Year and recent hire for CSULB's Career Development Center. "Ramsey Jay Jr., he had a real talent to communicate the perspective of coming from a place where you may not have all the resources, all the benefits, all the opportunities but how to be self-empowered. To really take agency at the next steps in life."

Though only around 35 men fill the conference throughout the day of speeches, questions and interaction, both Jay and Dunbar speak of attendees passing on the lessons learned to other students throughout the year. Dunbar encourages those at the conference and who may have missed it to come to MSI meetings every Wednesday at 3 p.m. in the Multicultural Center, Faculty Offices building 3.

"One of the things that I enjoy about Ramsey is the empowerment of the individual to go out and spread the word," says Dunbar. "Now it's [about] taking these twenty to thirty guys and reconnecting and making sure that they're implementing what they did today . . . I need for them to come and learn and take that knowledge with them and keep it. That's what success is."

HEALTH

continued from page 1

tax dollars going to support local schools or fire departments. Even if [some students] do not access these services personally, they are essential to maintaining the health and safety of the community."

Takemoto, along with other health services officials, first proposed the fee increase to the Student Fee Advisory Committee, who then recommended it to President Jane Close Conoley in March 2016. The proposal was initially vetoed by CSULB's Associated Student, Inc. in April 2016 because they felt they needed more information as to where the new money would be going and why students should be the ones to foot the cost.

The new revenue will go toward hiring more mental health professionals, a part-time registered dietician to assist students with issues such as food allergies, pre-diabetes and eating-disorders, reducing some lab fees such as the metabolic panel blood test and upgrading buildings and patient rooms. According to Takemoto, exam rooms have not been updated since the Student Health building opened in 1976.

The average California State University health services fee has risen steadily over the years, according to a PowerPoint presentation posted on the Health Services page.

CSULB currently has the lowest health services fee out of all 23 CSU campuses.

According to CSULB's CSU tuition and fee rates data for 2016 to 2017, the average CSU health fee is $269; the average health facility fee is $20.

> "Students are dealing with increased levels of stress and mental health issues that impact their ability to be successful. Our current system cannot meet student demand, and part of this fee increase will go specifically toward counseling and mental health services."
>
> *-Mary Ann Takemoto, Director of Student Health Services*

The CSULB Student Health Center offers primary care, Well Woman examinations, sports medicine, basic lab tests, educational programs, counseling, x-rays and a pharmacy, among other services – all free or low-cost.

"I believe we have a pretty comprehensive set of services," says Takemoto.

Ninety-five percent of the Student Health Services' operating budget was used to pay staff salaries in 2014 to 2015, according to a Student Health Center Quick Facts Sheet. Without a fee increase, Takemoto said, hourly staff positions would need to be cut, wait times for appointments would increase and referrals to outside facilities would increase.

"We hire some part-time nurses, medical assistants and nurse practitioners who assist us during peak times," she said. "They also help staff our triage [walk-in clinic] area. Without these positions, there would be longer wait times for students to get an appointment, or we may not be able to offer our triage same-day service."

From 2014 to 2015, more than 32,500 students visited the center, according to a letter posted on the Student Affairs webpage by Takemoto at the time of the increase proposal.

"Every year, thousands of students receive health services on campus and highly-qualified physicians, nurses, health educators and pharmacists are available at our health center to treat a wide range of illnesses and offer health and wellness-focused educational opportunities," said Vice President of Student Affairs Carmen Taylor in a campuswide email she sent on Feb. 8 announcing the increase.

The Student Excellence Fee covers some health-related educational programs, Takemoto said, but it is "not possible to fund staff [with the Student Excellence fee alone] since [staff] funds have to be applied for on an annual basis."

Since the fee's initial proposal, an increasing need for additional mental health services has been emphasized.

FAST FACTS
HEALTH SERVICE FEES

Average CSU health fee:

$269

Average CSU health facility fee:

$20

Cal State Long Beach currently has the **lowest** health services fee, at **$90** per year, out of all 23 CSU campuses.

Cal State Northridge has the **next lowest** health services fee, at **$120** per year.

Cal State Humboldt has the **highest** health services fee, at **$428** per year.

Source: 2016-17 California State University Tuition and Fee Rates
Image: stock.adobe.com

"Compared to the recommended counselor-to-student ratios, we are currently understaffed when it comes to the number of psychologists we have on campus, which results in longer wait times to be seen and a need to refer more students out to community resources at peak times of the year," Takemoto said.

She pointed to a recent article by STAT News which she says is "consistent" with CSULB trends in mental health service demand. The article notes that more students have been seeking counseling at college campuses across the nation, although the exact reason is still unknown. Students in crises sometimes are asked to wait weeks for their first appointment and colleges have been searching for ways to provide more resources.

"Students are dealing with increased levels of stress and mental health issues that impact their ability to be successful," Takemoto said in the letter she posted online. "Our current system cannot meet student demand, and part of this fee increase will go specifically toward counseling and mental health services."

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Photos by Yasmin Cortez | Daily 49er

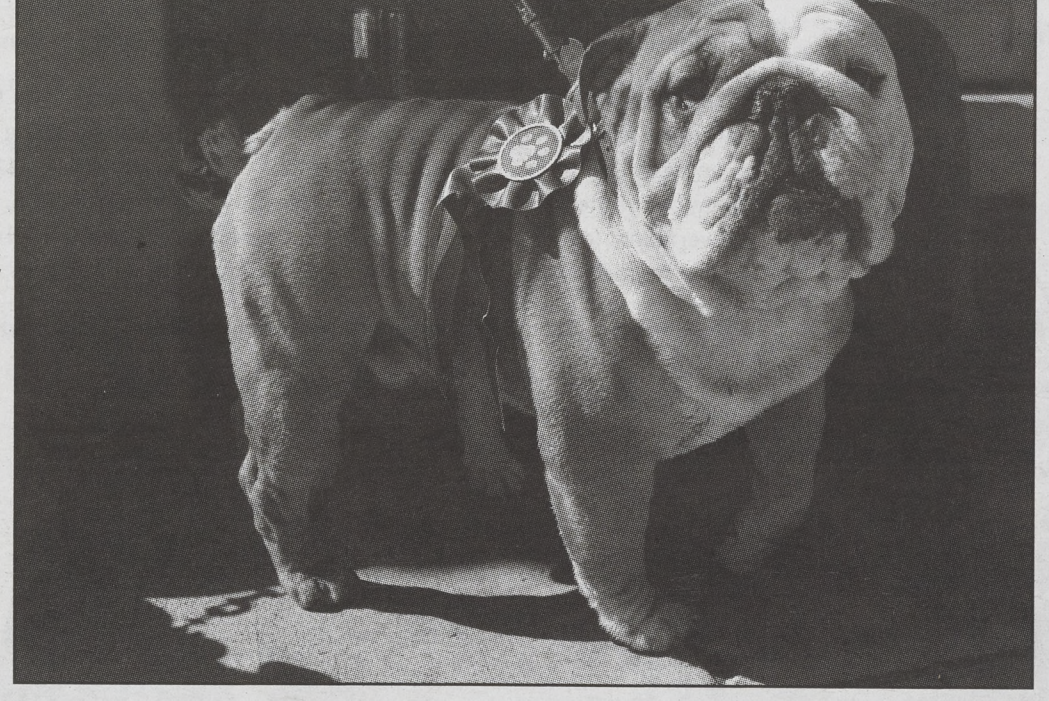
The Haute Dog Bulldog Beauty Contest was a day full of family fun for puppies, dogs and animal lovers alike at the Marine Stadium Park Sunday.

LONG BEACH EVENTS

Dawn of the dog

A hot day welcomes in the Haute Dog Bulldog Beauty Contest.

By Jason Enns
Arts & Life Editor



First time participant, Dozer Hood from Burbank, took home the blue ribbon in the Bulldog Beauty Contest.

The fishy smell of the marina filled the air as thousands of feet and even more paws scampered in the mud — hopefully, from the weekend's rain and not the many plausible urinations — at Marine Stadium Park on Sunday.

Animal lovers from all across Southern California met at the park for the 13th annual Haute Dog's Bulldog Beauty Contest from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"The whole idea is to bring people together for their love of animals," said volunteer Brad Duerre. "It's a great way to meet people, make friends and get involved with the community."

The event, which started off as an ironic attraction for a pet adoption fair, has evolved to include all sorts of breeds. Everyone from terriers and retrievers to Dachshunds and Great Danes were present.

"Lots of people were saying 'I'd like to bring my dog,' so it grew over the years," Duerre said.

The once-one-hour long event has now stretched into 6 hours, including 21 competitions for everything from Best Ears, Best Tail, even Best Legs to Best Butt (open to all breeds and mixes). This year, they wrapped up the day with the first ever Cutest Corgi contest.

The day began with the Best Dog with a Disability competition before kicking off the main event, the Bulldog Beauty Contest.

This year's most beautiful Bulldog was Dozer, a 3-year-old English Bulldog from Burbank. Courtney Hood, his wife Nancy and daughter Amanda, brought Dozer to Long Beach early on Sunday – along with Dozer's sister and the newest addition to the family, Mary.

They came just for the fun, and left with an unexpected blue ribbon.

"We were one of the last ones to walk onto the field, just in the spur of the moment," Hood said. "He's just a family dog. We don't primp him like you would a show dog, he gets dirty. He's just a bit of a show-off is all."

The Hoods say they have two human children, but five in total. They welcomed in their third Bulldog after another family was unable to take care of her, and said after getting Dozer — their first as a family — they had to go back to the breeder to get another.

"I didn't like leaving him alone, so we went back and got his sister, and I still don't leave them alone," Hood said chuckling. "I still take them with me everywhere."

He says all dogs are maintenance, but Bulldogs require a bit more attention because of a higher susceptibility to health issues and their many wrinkles that require cleaning.

"They're very picky dogs, and stubborn," Hood said. "With food they're easy to train, without it not so much."

Justin Rudd, organizer of the event and founder of Community Action Team, is currently the owner his third Bulldog name Potus. His first — which inspired the original contest 13 years ago — was named Rosie, and became the namesake for Rosie's Dog Beach near the Belmont Pier in 2010.

Duerre says that Rudd's non-profit organization CAT holds about 80 different events a year, including a beach clean-up every month and multiple "Haute Dog" events.

Rudd pays for pet adoption organizations to come set up booths at these contests, with the goal of finding as many homes as possible for the rescue dogs.

He says another reason for hosting the beauty contests is to unite dog lovers and their pets.

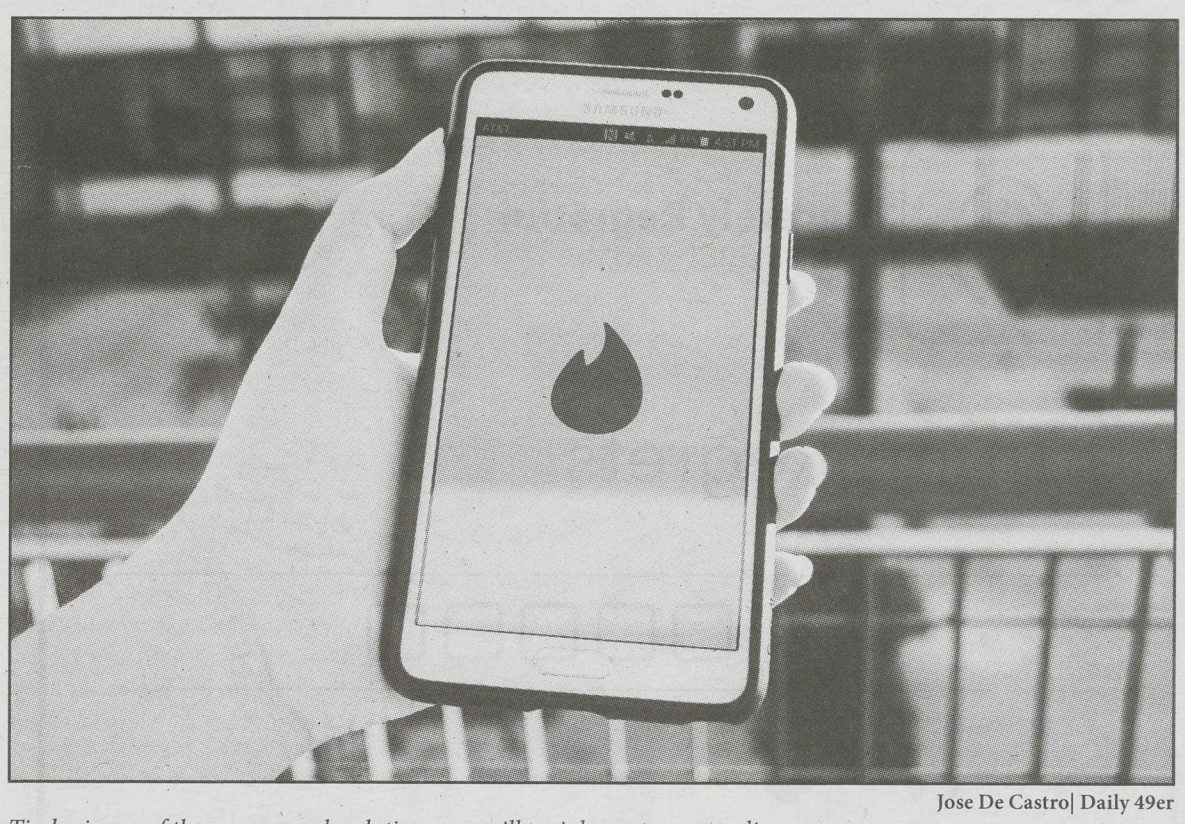
"I think the other reason is just to have a day that people can come with their animal and do something that's extra special," Rudd said. "I mean you may go to the dog park or you may go up to the dog beach, but when you come here and you take a blue ribbon, that's a memory you're going to have forever."

DATING TRENDS

For millennials, dating online is real life

Emerging technology and on-the-go lifestyles has resulted in a rise of online dating.

By Asjia Garner
Contributing Writer



Jose De Castro| Daily 49er

Tinder is one of the many popular dating apps millennials use to meet online.

It was nearly take-off. He propped his legs up in the vacant row of seats, ready for a long flight.

A young woman pardoned her tardiness and plopped in the seat next to him. He couldn't help but stare. She was beautiful.

They chatted the whole flight. Two years later, wedding bells chimed – at least, that was how Cal State Long Beach sociology professor Oliver Wang said he imagined meeting his wife.

In reality, he went on a date with a girl from Craigslist before meeting his wife via email in 1997. They were coast-to-coast pen pals for two years.

"Meeting someone online isn't any less story-worthy," said Wang.

Online dating, which was less common when Wang met his wife two decades ago, is becoming a social standard amongst millennials.

According to the Pew Research Center, 27 percent of 18 to 24-year-olds have used online dating. Their interest nearly tripled from 10 percent in 2013. Compared to their parents and grandparents, millennials are the most active online dating age group.

"When enough people engage in it as a critical mass, it becomes normalized," Wang said.

It's easier for young adults to date online between school, work, and extracurricular activities.

Just before the 21st century, people criticized those using Match.com or any other online dating network. Now, Match.com is the most visited dating website in the United States.

"It's not stigmatized behavior anymore, it's recommended behavior," said CSULB communications professor Ebony Utley. "Like Instagram – sliding into the DMs [direct messages], now that's what you are supposed to do."

Utley concentrates in hip-hop, popular culture and romantic relationships. She also teaches a graduate seminar on intimacy and technology.

Millennials like the convenience of apps, such as Tinder, and the almost unlimited selection of websites and candidates. Utley sees it as an "evolution of dating relationships."

It's more attractive because rejection isn't so bad. People swipe to their heart's content because it's emotionally safe, she says.

"It's not reducing our interpersonal communication skills, but it gives us less practice with rejection," Utley said.

CSULB communications professor Stacy L. Young agrees. Interactions become more challenging for people when they meet face-to-face because they aren't experienced with conversing in that way.

From Young's studies in interpersonal rejection/unrequited love and relational conflict, she sees people fall into a trap of believing they know everything about another's life based on social media posts.

But, online profiles can be misleading.

Individuals appreciate profiles with "warranting" value, CSULB graduate student Andrew Hiestand says. In this context, the value comes from seeing active evidence of friends, family, vacations, hobbies, etc. as opposed to a profile full of selfies.

He, specifically, researches online dating under the supervision of CSULB communications professor Jessica Abrams.

Hiestand met his girlfriend on OKCupid. He laughs, saying she had a negative impression of his profile picture at first, an individual picture of himself leaning against his car.

"People have the freedom to represent their ideal selves online, but it's not intentionally deceptive," Utley said.

Utley calls it "selective presentation," where people put the best image of themselves forward.

Hiestand continues to study the credibility of dating profiles to other people.

"We are pushing off dating later and later in terms of looking for a serious relationship," Hiestand said. "What is a serious relationship?"

Take second-year CSULB student Vienn Nong, for example. She is in a 10-month relationship with her boyfriend, but she met him while living on campus freshman year.

She used Tinder her senior year of high school. Four dates later, she stopped preferring meeting guys online.

"A lot of millennials use Tinder as a joke or just for fun," Nong said. "They aren't looking for long-term relationships."

But Wang, emphasizing his studies in pop culture and new media, sees people's perceptions of Tinder evolving.

"It acquired a reputation of a 'hook-up app' [at first]," he said. "[But it's becoming] more of a conventional app rather than a hit-and-run."

Online dating has also become a popular avenue for the LGBT community, as over 25 dating apps or websites have targeted this specific population.

Websites such as OKCupid, Chemistry, Match and BeNaughty, as well as apps such as Grindr, Tinder and Hornet, offer LGBT preferences that attract most users.

"They have a level of comfort from knowing that the people they are interacting with have similar goals," Young said.

Utley observes this as "hyper-personal relationships." Connections are sometimes stronger online than face to face because without the non-verbal disconnections between what you say and how your body responds, people assume you mean what you write online.

This leads to faster disclosure between people. It increases intimacy, creating these hyper-personal relationships.

"If I were face-to-face with you, I wouldn't tell you all of my business," said Utley, "but if we were online and I wanted you to like me, I would share more because it's emotionally safe."

But, sometimes relationships can be challenging online.

"If you want to have a good relationship you need to have as much face time as possible," Young said. "I worry that people use social media to avoid face to face conversations."

Nong described three of her four dates as awkward and nervous, compared to the relaxed persona they had through texts and Snapchats.

"I wish I could have experienced online dating more," said Wang. "Even if I were single again now, I would try and online date."

Dating sites are trying to perfect the "romance algorithm," Wang calls it. They are trying to predict which characteristics will most likely match.

Online dating might not have won everyone over, but people are starting to recognize that the decline of asking each other out in person could be a problem.

"We don't have that comfort anymore," says Young. "It's not the same from my generation where we would just expect it. The value [amongst millennials] is somewhere in between."

Nong still finds the traditional ask more genuine.

However, sixty-two percent of Americans who have used online dating say it allows people to find a better match than meeting people in a conventional social setting, according to the Pew Research Center.

Young predicts conversations will increasingly begin online and apps and dating sites will become more specialized, targeting specific goals such as long-term or just for fun relationships.

"The stigma will continue to decrease," Young said. "It will be a normal way of expanding our network."

It's definitely not going away.

Hiestand says the trend seems to be making connections as organic as possible.

"It's not online versus real life, because online is real life," said Utley.

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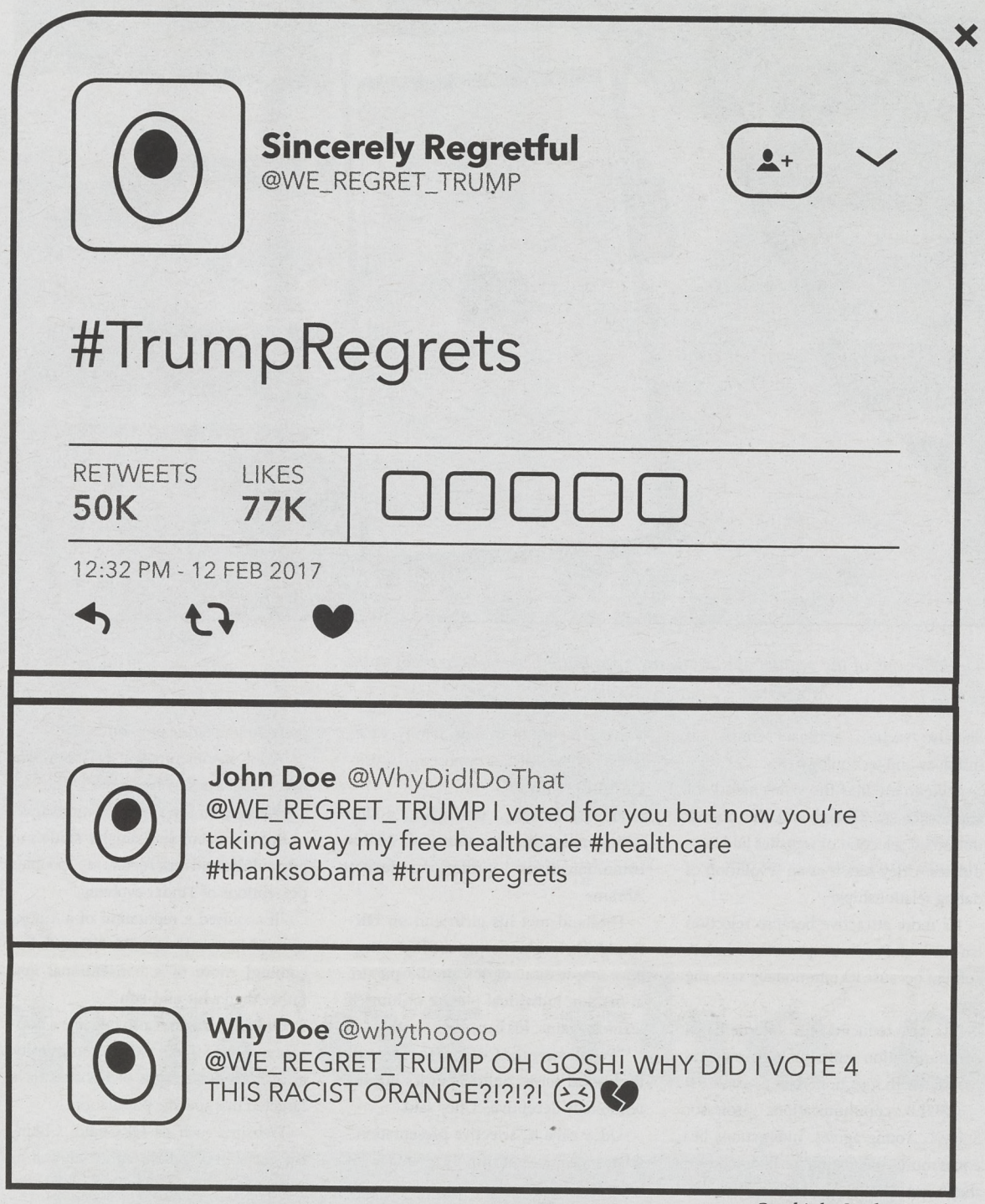
SOCIAL MEDIA

Trump supporters are in for a bumpy ride

President Trump's first month in office is coming to a close and some voters are now voicing their regret.

By Sol Mendez
Staff Writer



Graphic by Stephanie Hak

As President Donald Trump's first month in office comes to an end, Americans have now gotten a peek into what the next four years may look like. Unfortunately, it's not looking too great. Bans, walls, repeal of healthcare – you name it and President Trump probably has a detrimental plan for it.

As a result, I find myself questioning from day-to-day: who put this man in office? Surely, as an American, you can only ever hope that the country will be viewed as a beacon of hope to all those who live in it.

Yet, whenever I scroll down to the comments section of any political video these days, I always seem to come across at least a handful of people who comment on their loss of hope for our nation's politics. As a result, those who once supported Trump and his campaign are now particularly becoming easier to find.

The supporters who are now regretting their vote for President Trump shouldn't be frowned upon, but instead should serve as a learning experience.

If the now-regretful Trump supporters had done more research into his policies rather than taking his motto: "Make America Great Again" at face value — perhaps we, as a nation, could have avoided this situation.

It doesn't take much to inform yourself. A couple minutes a day would do. Proactive research, analyzing, learning about certain policies and what they mean, can lead to a better understanding of the situation beforehand.

A testimony to these sentiments manifests itself in a Twitter page that was set up by a student from the University of King's College in Halifax, Canada, was filled with re-tweets from those now regretful Trump voters.

With a handle worthy of its tweets, @Trump_Regrets is filled with re-tweets that contain comments such as one by @Richk515,who tweeted, "please let go of your ego. Even i'm embarrassed and i voted for you." Another by @Dieggiit-too flat out read, "I shouldn't have voted for trump :/ "

The Twitter page, which now has over 200,000 followers and over 1,000 re-tweets, made me question: why regret now?

Trump announced his run for presidency in mid-2015. From the time of the announcement, there was plenty of time to do research. In fact, there were various outlets from which citizens could get their information from; newspapers, radio, online sources, even social media.

Of course, because there is the possibility of fake news, fact-checking websites also became increasingly popular.

For example, a site set up by the Washington Post, served people with an intent to deliver the pure facts.

Consequently, supporters definitely had plenty of time to do the research and learn about the effects that Trump's ideas would have on the U.S. if implemented.

During the presidential election, Trump's official slogan became, "Make America Great Again," a slogan which supporters felt they could relate with.

As election season continued, Cosmopolitan Magazine shared a video in which they asked Trump supporters a series of questions. In response to the question of whether Trump is a positive role model, one supporter expressed, "If we need a bully to take over this election and get things done, that's what's going to have to happen."

I began to notice that a lot of these supporters weren't the stereotypical white, racist, xenophobic individuals I often see on social media. Many people had faith that Trump would put America first. That he would make a difference in Washington politics, that he would care for all people living in America.

At the very least, Donald Trump's presidency has voters more involved with the election. A Pew Research Center study found that 85 percent of voters had expressed that they were closely following the 2016 election. More inclusively, the study stated that 80 percent of registered voters expressed that they thought "quite a lot" about the election.

The study also showed that no group of voters had shown this much concern over an election since the 2008 elections.

While a greater number of voters did stay tuned for past election, it doesn't necessarily mean that they researched it any more than the few previous elections –which, further reinforces the need to keep oneself thoroughly informed when the well being of billions of people is at hand

Kanye West used his visibility as a public figure to post tweets in support of Trump, but has since deleted his pro-Trump tweets following the president's executive order for the travel ban on the seven Muslim majority countries. While West's label had no comment on the matter, it was easy to conclude that West has become a regretful Trump supporter.

The regrets of the past supporters isn't something that should be forever frowned upon because at the end of the day, we are all human and just like anyone else, we are all prone to making mistakes.

Still, in an age where almost anything is accessible with a quick touch of our phones, I believe that people should definitely be more than willing to try and educate themselves about the politics of the country.

To take the initiative and try to learn more about the policies, orders, laws, and the affects that those may have on all its citizens, because for better or worse, that is what will define the future of our country.

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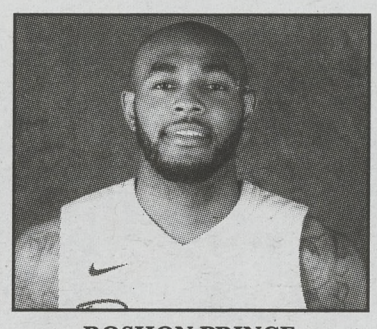
Letters Policy: All letters and e-mail must bear the phone number of the writer and must be no more than 300 words. The Daily 49er reserves the right to edit letters for publication in regard to space.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Road woes continue for men's basketball

Long Beach State men's basketball team can't slow down Cal State Fullerton on its way to 14th road loss.

By Matthew Simon
Sports Editor



ROSHON PRINCE
21 POINTS AND 14 REBOUNDS

After taking an early first-half lead, the Long Beach State men's basketball team was unable to contain Cal State Fullerton in a 74-69 loss Saturday in Fullerton.

While LBSU has struggled with injuries and a tough road schedule, the 49ers (11-16, 6-5) have been unable to put together consistent performances on the road.

The 49ers jumped out to an early 7-0 lead to start the game, but the Titans started to get things going as the game progressed.

Against CSUF (11-12, 5-5), the 49ers' starters scored in double-figures, which led to an early 33-27 lead at the half.

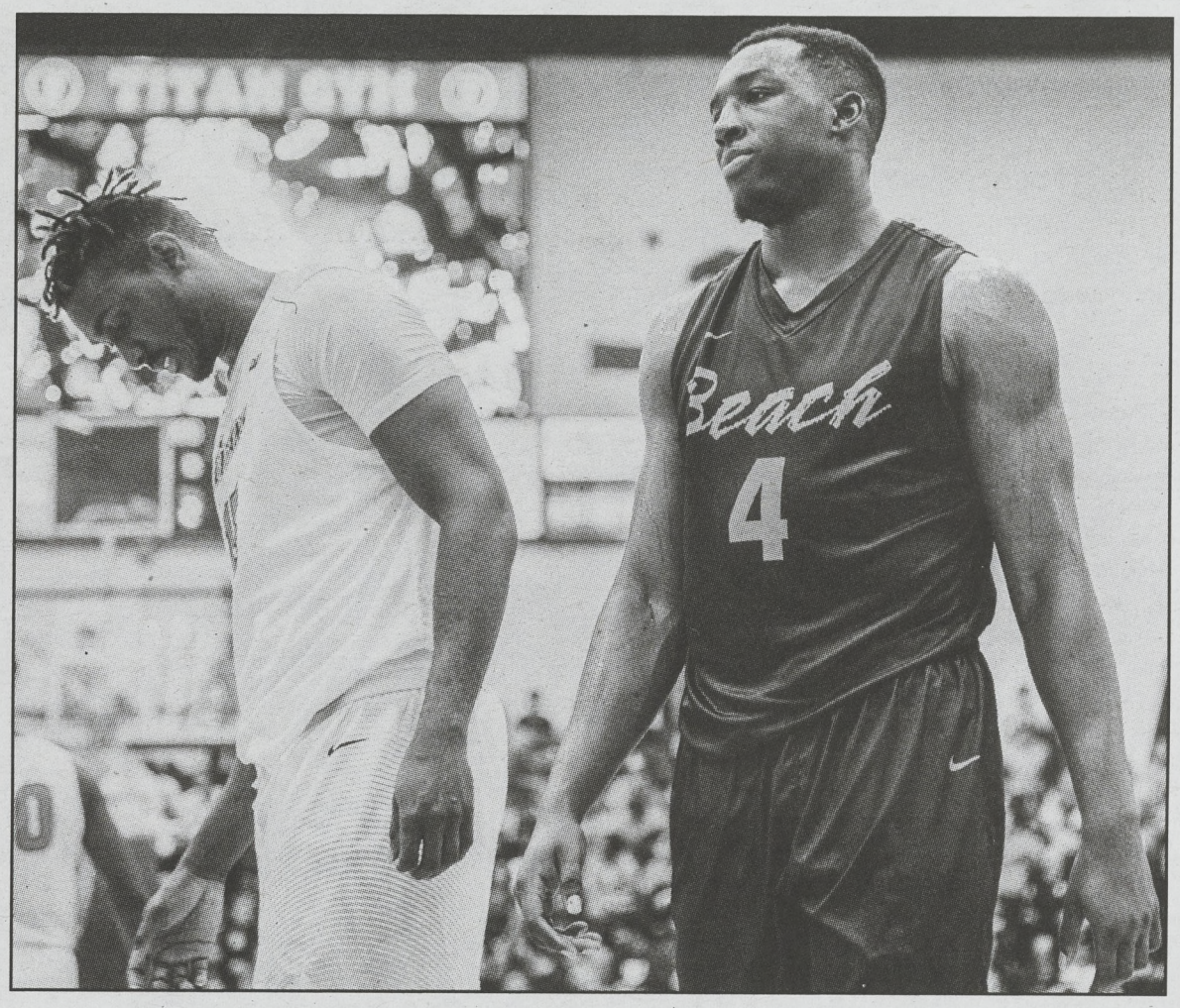
It was a highly-contested game as the rival teams started to trade baskets. LBSU's junior forward Roschon Prince led the 49ers with 21 points and 14 rebounds.

While Prince's performance was impressive, CSUF guards Tre' Coggins and Khalil Ahmad combined to score 45 of the Titans' 74 points.

Without sophomore guard Noah Blackwell, who is out indefinitely as he nurses a injury to his right foot, LBSU is still searching for how it will find its rhythm.

After taking a lead into halftime, LBSU slowly allowed the Titans to creep back and take the lead thanks to the Big West's leading scorer Coggins – who scored 15 points in the second half.

With so much parity in the Big West, the 49ers will look to continue their fight for one of the eight Big West Tournament spots when they host UC Davis Thursday night at 7.



Katie Albertson | Daily Titan
Sophomore forward Temidayo Yussuf shows dissatisfaction during Long Beach State's 74-69 loss to Cal State Fullerton Saturday night. The game was the 49ers' 14th road loss.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Long Beach State routs Cal State Fullerton

Long Beach State's women's basketball team sets record for most three made in a single game.

By Grester Celis-Acosta
Staff Writer

Ben Hammerton | Daily 49er
Senior forward Jewelyn Sawyer crosses over a Cal State Fullerton defender at the Walter Pyramid Thursday.

While leading the Long Beach State to a blowout 84-55 win over Cal State Fullerton Saturday, junior guard Jessica Gertz set a new school record by making nine three-pointers in the game.

Those nine triples helped the 49ers (17-8, 8-2) secure the win over the Titans (4-19, 1-9).

Gertz was on fire throughout the game, draining three after three. In the first quarter alone she made four triples, two of which came in the first minute of the game.

By halftime, the five-foot 10-inch sophomore had six triples, putting her one away from tying the record, which was previously a three-way tie at seven.

Gertz also tied her career high in points at halftime, with 18.

She eventually tied the three point record in the third quarter at the 5:24 mark and broke it in the fourth quarter at the 3:55 mark.

"I was really excited," Gertz said. "I just looked over and saw the bench. Right when it left my hand I knew it was going in and then I looked over at the bench and they were super hyped, so that was really exciting."

The record-holding junior then added to her total with another triple with :49 left in the fourth quarter.

"She stepped up and knocked them down," 49er Head coach Jody Wynn said. "Our team did a fabulous job at finding her and our team wanted her to get that record. It was a special thing for the program and certainly special for Jess."

Gertz finished the game with a career high of 29 points, one assist and three rebounds.

The 49ers also tied the record for most triples in a single game with 20. The original record was set on Jan. 9, 2016 against the Titans on the road.

Even though the Titans lost they had three players score in double-digit points in Thursday's game. Their top scorer was junior guard Jordan Jackson with 15 points, while both junior guard Iman Lathan and sophomore guard Daeja Smith put up 12 points apiece.

Titans' lone senior Dhanyel Johnson snagged 15 rebounds.

The 49ers, on the hand, had four players in double-digit points.

Gertz led the way with 29, but seniors Anna Kim, Madison Montgomery and junior guard Gigi Hascheff put up 11 points apiece.

Kim also received a standing ovation from the home crowd before tip-off as she became the 25th player in Long Beach State history to score 1,000 career points. She reached this feat in a victory on the road over UC Irvine on Feb. 4.

"Obviously, it's an honor," Kim said. "I didn't realize it at first, but to achieve something like this I'm blessed. Thanks for my teammates I would [not have done this] without them, especially the coaching staff. I'm really happy and grateful."

Despite the 49ers posting big numbers against the Titans, they were without senior Raven Benton and junior Cece Wilson.

According to Wynn, they are currently injured and there is no exact time as to when they will return.

The 49ers' next game will be on the road against Cal Poly at the Kellogg Arena on Feb. 16.

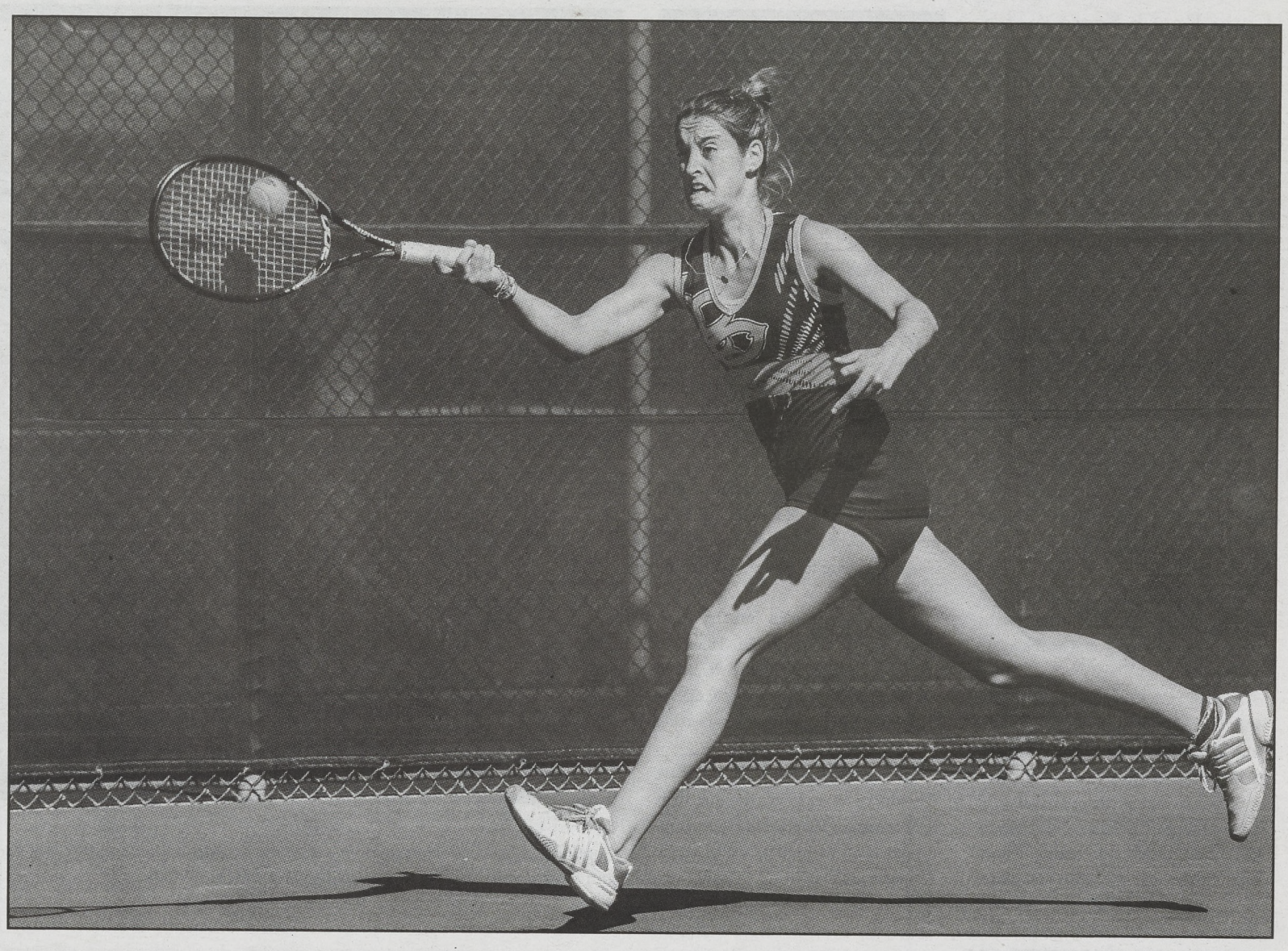
The Broncos currently sit in sixth place in the Big West Conference, as they have a record of 4-6. LBSU defeated the Broncos in their first meeting at the Walter Pyramid on Jan. 14.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

49ers cruise to 6-1 win over Dons

Long Beach State gets all-around effort in win against University of San Francisco Sunday afternoon.

By Matthew Simon
Sports Editor



Jose De Castro | Daily 49er

Senior Julie Gerard hits a return to Emily Maxfield of San Francisco State during their singles match at the Rhodes Tennis Center Sunday.

After an early loss to Loyola Marymount, the Long Beach State women's tennis team has now won three straight contests after its 6-1 victory over the University of San Francisco Sunday.

The women got off to a great start when they won two doubles matches to take the first point of the day.

"When you can put up the doubles results like we did to start the match," LBSU coach Jenny Hilt-Costello said. "It gives everyone a boost of confidence to see those first sets and look fairly dominant on most of the courts. It gives everyone a shot of adrenaline."

The early win gave the 49ers (3-1) a boost of confidence as they continued to get better on the court throughout the day.

"I think the most important thing out of this entire weekend was — we've been working on a lot of things in practice [that] we wanted to learn from our LMU loss and some other things and we're seeing the improvement that we've been working out on the court," Hilt-Costello said. "That's our goal every day is to see improvement every match, every day."

Along with seeing improvements on the court since its early season loss, LBSU has seen the emergence of its freshman who are expected to take the place of the four seniors on the team.

"We recruited them knowing that they could come in here and contribute right away," Hilt-Costello said. "They're settling in very quickly and they definitely showed that they could be leaders for us next year."

One of those freshman that has made an immediate impact was freshman Maren Helgo. Helgo cruised to a win, beating USF's (0-4) Emily Maxfield 6-0 and 6-1.

"Every match is important," Helgo said. "But it's nice to be able to help the team."

While Helgo dominated to her straight set victory, LBSU's No. 1 Maeva Razakasoa and No. 2 Julie Gerard had a tougher tasks in their eventual straight set wins.

In Razakasoa's 6-4 first set win, she had to come from behind before pulling ahead to take the first set. After settling into the match, Razakasoa beat USF's freshman Anna Sokiran 6-1.

"She was playing good, but she had a game like [I haven't seen]," Razakasoa said about the first set. "It was hard for me to find a rhythm, so I had to find it and I tried to move her [around the court]."

LBSU will now go on a four-match road trip starting Friday when the team faces San Diego State at 2 p.m.

LONG BEACH STATE

Softball team finishes opening weekend with win

LBSU softball team finishes opening weekend with a 5-1 win.

By Matthew Simon
Sports Editor

After starting its Beach Kickoff Tournament splitting games with South Dakota, the Long Beach State softball team beat San Diego State 5-1 Saturday at LBSU Softball Complex.

It was a group effort from LBSU's freshmen that helped the 49ers beat the Aztecs.

After falling behind 1-0 at the top of the third inning, LBSU's sophomore shortstop Nichole Fry got on base with a single.

That's when freshman designated player Aniesa Maulupe got things going for the 49ers (3-1-1) with a two-run home run that gave LBSU a 2-1 lead after trailing SDSU 1-0 at the top of the third inning.

The home run was the first in Maulupe's college career.

Along with her clutch hit, freshman pitcher Devyn Magnett threw four scoreless innings on her way to her first collegiate win.

The 49ers added two runs in the fifth inning to take a 5-1 lead and Magnett closed the game in the seventh.

LBSU will now host the University of Washington Tuesday for a 10 a.m. game.

Men's Volleyball

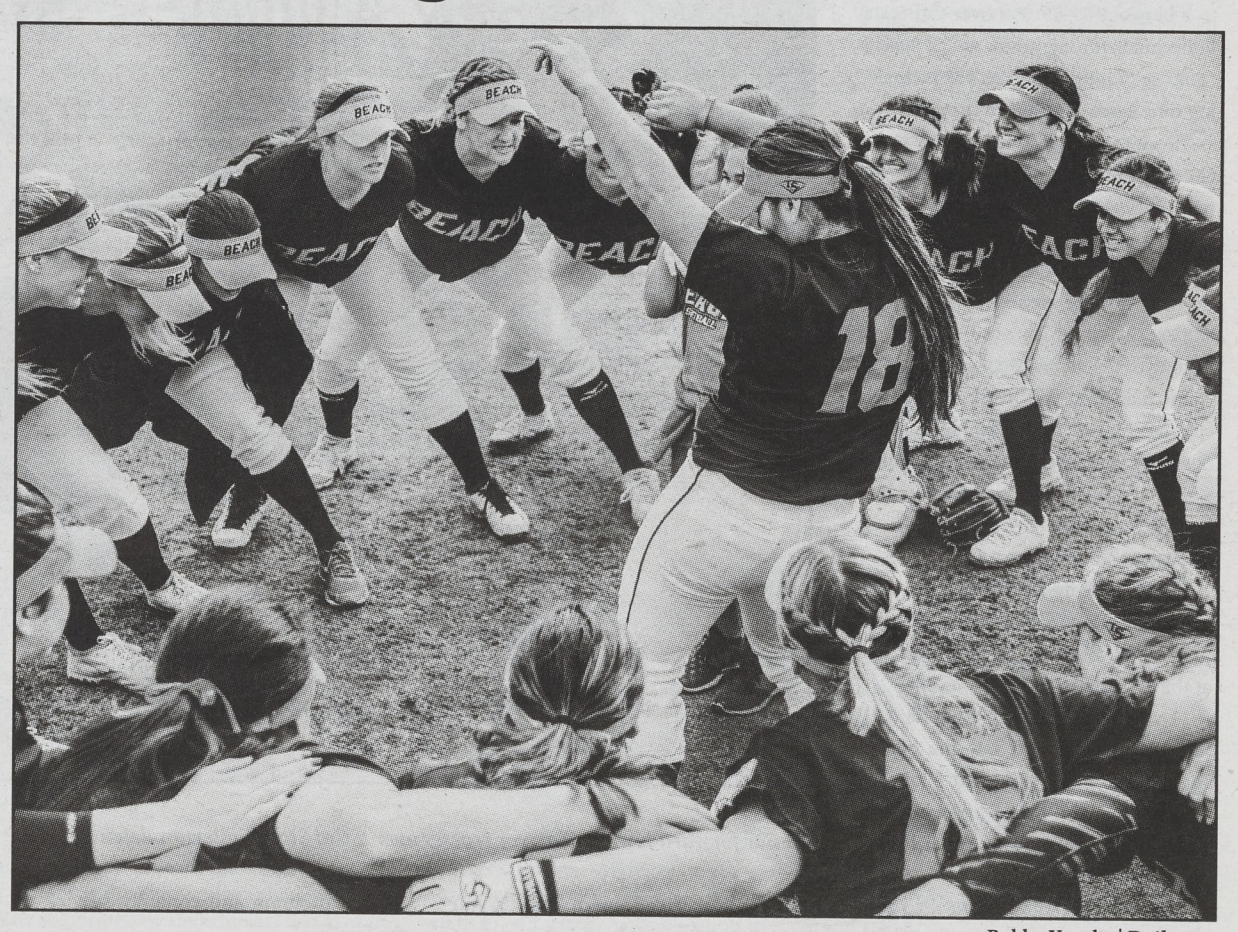
With the No. 2 Long Beach State men's volleyball team halfway through its road trip, the 49ers swept UC San Diego 25-14, 25-19, 25-20.

The win was LBSU's (11-2) fourth consecutive sweep after losing to No. 1 Ohio State.

Against UCSD (5-7), the 49ers got great performances from sophomores Josh Tuaniga, TJ DeFalco and Kyle Ensing.

While DeFalco led the team with 14 kills, Tuaniga dished out 29 assists in the game. Ensing was second for LBSU with eight kills.

The 49ers will continue their road trip when the team travels to UC Santa Barbara Wednesday.



Bobby Yagake | Daily 49er

Senior catcher Monique Dyer leads off a team huddle right at the beginning of the San Diego State game Saturday. The 49ers defeated SDSU 5-1.